

24. (new) A game device according to claim 23, wherein selective operation by said communicator is implemented via a game controller serving as an inputting device of the game device.

25. (new) A game device comprising the character communication device according to claim 8.

26. (new) A game device according to claim 25, wherein selective operation by said communicator is implemented via a game controller serving as an inputting device of the game device.--

REMARKS

Applicants delete pages 42-43 that constitute the two-page translated annex filed with this application. These pages are being deleted because they fail to correspond to the substituted page 35 on a page-for-page basis. Applicants amend claim 1 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 to incorporate the only claim amendment contained in the previously filed annex made to the international application in Japanese.

Applicants also amend claims 5 and 9 and add new claims 18-26 to correct improper multiple dependencies in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1), Applicants provide a marked-up version of the amended claims in an attached Appendix designated "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

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A check for \$540 is enclosed. The fee includes additional claims fee due to the amendment. If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our deposit account no. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A communication device connected to a network and enabling communication of messages at least by characters, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving means for implementing communication of messages with a communication device of the other party of communication via said network;

a communication content displaying means for displaying in a communication content displaying area of a screen display the content of communication with said communication device of said other party;

a candidate term displaying means for displaying in a candidate term displaying area of said screen display a group of candidate terms prepared in advance for said communication of messages, in a manner allowing selection by a unit of words or phrases constituting a sentence;

a term selecting means for outputting a term selected by a transmitter out of said group of candidate terms; and

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a message forming means for serially displaying a plurality of output terms in a message editing area of said screen display, and thereby forming messages and sending the formed message to said transmitting and receiving means.

5. (Amended) A character communication device according to any one of claims [1 through 4] 1, 2, and 4, wherein said group of candidate terms are arranged in a table in a plurality of pages, and one of said plurality of pages is displayed in said candidate term displaying area.

9. (Amended) A game device comprising the character communication device according to any one of claims [1 through 8] 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7.

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